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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/650,082	08/28/2003	Udo Klein	15609-017001 / 2003P00621	7222
32864	7590	05/01/2006	EXAMINER	
FISH & RICHARDSON, P.C. PO BOX 1022 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022			ROBINSON, GRETA LEE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2168	

DATE MAILED: 05/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/650,082

Applicant(s)

KLEIN ET AL.

Examiner

Greta L. Robinson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 March 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/11/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-20 are pending in the present invention.

#### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

2. The information disclosure statement filed August 11, 2004 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(1), which requires the following: (1) a list of all patents, publications, applications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office; (2) U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications listed in a section separately from citations of other documents; (3) the application number of the application in which the information disclosure statement is being submitted on each page of the list; (4) a column that provides a blank space next to each document to be considered, for the examiner's initials; and (5) a heading that clearly indicates that the list is an information disclosure statement. Note Applicant has not properly cited the non-patent literature document. The information disclosure statement has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

#### ***Drawings***

3. The drawings are objected to because of the partial views in Figures 3, 5, 6, 9, 12A, 12B, 16A, 16B, 18A, 18B, 19A, 19B and 20A. See 37 CFR 1.184(h). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the

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sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

## **INFORMATION ON HOW TO EFFECT DRAWING CHANGES**

### **Replacement Drawing Sheets**

Drawing changes must be made by presenting replacement sheets which incorporate the desired changes and which comply with 37 CFR 1.84. An explanation of the changes made must be presented either in the drawing amendments section, or remarks, section of the amendment paper. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). A replacement sheet must include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of the amended drawing(s) must not be labeled as "amended." If the changes to the drawing figure(s) are not accepted by the examiner, applicant will be notified of any required corrective action in the next Office action. No further drawing submission will be required, unless applicant is notified.

Identifying indicia, if provided, should include the title of the invention, inventor's name, and application number, or docket number (if any) if an application number has not

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been assigned to the application. If this information is provided, it must be placed on the front of each sheet and within the top margin.

### **Annotated Drawing Sheets**

A marked-up copy of any amended drawing figure, including annotations indicating the changes made, may be submitted or required by the examiner. The annotated drawing sheet(s) must be clearly labeled as "Annotated Sheet" and must be presented in the amendment or remarks section that explains the change(s) to the drawings.

### **Timing of Corrections**

Applicant is required to submit acceptable corrected drawings within the time period set in the Office action. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Failure to take corrective action within the set period will result in ABANDONMENT of the application.

If corrected drawings are required in a Notice of Allowability (PTOL-37), the new drawings MUST be filed within the THREE MONTH shortened statutory period set for reply in the "Notice of Allowability." Extensions of time may NOT be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 for filing the corrected drawings after the mailing of a Notice of Allowability.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

4. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

5. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the disclosed invention is inoperative and therefore lacks utility. The claim as presently written appears to be an abstract idea. It is unclear as to how the series of method steps are implemented, and there does not appear to be recitation of computer code or a processor for executing the method; therefore the claim as presently written lacks utility and is not tangible.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mukundan et al. US Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0177587 A1 in view of Kanerva et al. US Patent 6,122,649.

Regarding claim 1, **Mukundan et al.** teaches a method comprising: selecting a first data record stored at a first level of a data model, the first data record being connected to other first-level data by way of central data stored at a second level of the data model [note: page 5 paragraph 0090 *data model* which serves as the basis for various applications ; page 25 paragraph 0762 At block 3630, in response to the user's

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selection of the respective command item, the command associated with the respective item is routed to an appropriate destination for processing; Figure 36 note steps 3620 through 3640; also note abstract “a method is provided in which a **first field** and a **second field** of a data record are displayed to a user using a client program, the second field having one or more attributes that are dependent upon the value of the first field. In response to a detection that the first field has changed, the value of the first field is sent to a server program. The server program is configured to process the changed value of the first field and determine corresponding changes with respect to the one or more attributes of the second field”];

associating the first data record with a grouping value that is generated based on a pre-determined grouping reason [note: page 25 paragraph 0762; Figure 36 steps 3620 through 3640; command objects may be defined page 25 paragraph 0763];

selecting a second data record stored at the first level [note: paragraph 0762 and 0189; Figure 37 step 3760; Figures 20, 21, 38 and 39]; and

associating the second data record with the grouping value, such that a modification of the first data record will result in a synchronizing modification of the second data record [note: “a method is provided in which a first field and a second field of a data record are displayed to a user using a client program, the second field having one or more attributes that are dependent upon the value of the first field. In response to a detection that the first field has changed, the value of the first field is sent to a server program. The server program is configured to process the changed value of the first field and determine corresponding changes with respect to the one or more attributes of the second field” abstract; Figures 37-39 and 41; *logical grouping or mapping may be defined* see paragraph 0765 ]. Although Mukundan et al. teaches the invention substantially, they do not explicitly

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teach a grouping value. Mukundan et al. teaches logical grouping or mappings may be defined to associate identified fields for changes [paragraph 0091]. Kanerva et al. teaches automatic synchronization of the contents of the source field values (i.e. group values) with linked property values [see: col. 5 line 32 through col. 6 line 39]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to have combined Kanerva et al. with Mukundan et al. because a grouping value would enable contents of the first field to be dynamically linked and synchronized with the contents of the second field when modified.

8. Regarding claims 2-4:

(claim 2) "wherein the group value is time-dependent" [see: Kanerva et al. teaches user-defined ability col. 6 lines 1-39];

(claim 3) "determining that the group value has changed from a first grouping value to a second grouping value with respect to the first data record; and

re-assessing synchronization of the first data record and second data record based on the second grouping value" [note: Kanerva et al. custom property interface provides various functions col. 6 lines 27-52];

(claim 4) "wherein re-assessing synchronization of the first data record and second data record based on the second grouping value comprises:

determining that the second data record continues to be associated with the first grouping value;



splitting the first data record into a first portion and a second portion that are associated with the first grouping value and the second grouping value, respectively; and

modifying content of the second portion to reflect association with the second grouping value" [note: Kanerva et al. col. 5 line 56 through col. 6 line 52].

9. Regarding claim 5, wherein associating the first data record with the grouping value comprises:

examining contents of pre-designed record of a set of data records of which the first data record is a part; and

generating the grouping value based on the contents [note: Kanerva et al. custom interface and user-defined ability col. 6 lines 1-39].

10. Regarding claim 6, wherein the first data record and the second data record are time-dependent and time-constrained [note: Mukundan et al. page 20 paragraph 0677 a design-time menu activation/suppression feature is provided for applet-level menu; Figure 19].

11. Regarding claims 7 and 8:

(claim 7) "wherein the central data includes data related to a single person [note: Mukundan et al. paragraph 0071];

(claim 8) "wherein the first data record relates to a first work assignment of the person, and the second record relates to a second work assignment of the person"  
[note: Mukundan et al. paragraphs 0068-0070 and 0063; paragraph 0099 through 0103 assignment of tasks through assignment Manager ].

12. The limitations of claims 9-15 have been addressed above in claims 1-8 except for the following: "a grouping reason database designating a field in each of a plurality of sets of data records; and a grouping engine operable to input a first set of data records"  
[note: Mukundan et al paragraph 0091 logical groupings of various types may be implemented, paragraph 0097 and 0109-0111].

13. The limitations of claims 16-20 have been addressed above in claims 1-8 except for the following: "a first code segment for determining a first timeline associated with a first sequence of data records; a second code segment for determining a second timeline associated with a second sequence of records; a third code segment for associating a grouping value with a common period of the first time line and the second timeline" [note: Mukundan et al. page 20 paragraph 0677 a design-time menu activation/suppression feature is provided for applet-level menu; Figure 19; Figure 37].

### ***Conclusion***

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Champagne et al. US Patent 6,925,477 B1

Beier et al. US Patent 6,065,018

LaRue et al. US Patent 6,449,622 B1

Boothby US Patent 6,405,218 B1

Erickson et al. US Patent 6,892,210 B1

Bodnar et al. US Patent 6,295,541

Coker et al. US Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0131925 A1

Larue et al. US Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0156798 A1

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Greta L. Robinson whose telephone number is (571)272-4118. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim T. Vo can be reached on (571)272-3642. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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GRETA ROBINSON  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Greta Robinson  
Primary Examiner  
April 27, 2006